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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/875,424	07/28/1997	KAJ HENRICSON	30-440	3959

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EXAMINER

ALVO, MARC S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1731	31

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Claims 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16, step c) has been amended to “the pH, between about 3-4”, this term does not have a proper antecedent, since it is inconsistent with the pH of step a) which claims a “pH of 2-6”. Also claim 22, the term “adding acid to alkali to the pulp” is indefinite. It appears Applicant adjusts the pH of the pulp with an alkali to raise the pH from 3-4 to 4-9.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '491 in view of MARECHAL for the reasons set forth in pages 7-9 of the Board of Appeals Decision.

The Board of Appeals in its Decision of October 31, 2002, on pages 8 and 9, stated that EP '491 teaches a pH of up to 5, preferably 2-3, and thereafter raising the pH to 5.0, a treatment temperature of 10 to 100 °C for a time of 1 to 600 minutes, with a drop in kappa number from 15.7 to 7.1 to 8.4. Thus, the additions to claim 16 do not make it patentable. Similarly, the Board states that the amount of peroxide utilized is nothing more than result effective variable (sentence bridging pages 8 and 9. Accordingly, claims 16, 18, 21, 22 and 32 are not allowable

over the art of record. Claim 19; see Example 8 of EP '491 for (O-ADQ-P) sequence, wherein 10-30 kg/ton chlorine dioxide is used (claim 33).

Claims 24-30 and 35-46 are allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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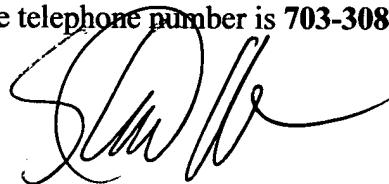
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the **primary examiner** should be directed to **Steve Alvo** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-2048**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from **6:00 AM - 2:30 PM (EST)**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Steve Griffin, can be reached on 703-308-1164.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Group receptionist** whose telephone number is **703-308-0661**.



STEVE ALVO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731

MSA
5/2/2003